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Title: Need to provide reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs in the draft 'University Innovation' Bill being circulated for comments of experts.

DR. KIRIT PREMJIBHAI SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD WEST): Respected Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for providing an opportunity to speak on a very vital issue.

We observe that there is injustice to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes so frequently. I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, Sir, that there is a speculation that through the Central Government, the injustice is being done to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes. I would like to draw the attention of this House to a move of our HRD Ministry.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is known to make many innovative experiments, and this Ministry has achieved many good results also. But probably, because of some over enthusiasm or pro-activeness, this Ministry is making a University Innovation Bill. The HRD Ministry has prepared a draft Bill on this and it has been circulated among the experts. I am getting pained to say that in this draft Bill, the HRD Ministry has not mentioned about the reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs. It has talked about the merits only. These innovative Universities will be set up either by public or by private or by PPP mode.

This draft Bill has not mentioned about a clear-cut reservation but it has insisted that it will be strictly on the basis of merit. It says:

> "This University shall be open to all the persons irrespective of nationality, gender, caste, creed, disabilities, ethnicity, social or economic ground."

This draft Bill has been circulated among the experts. I would request the Government of India, through you, Sir, to make necessary changes in this draft Bill for keeping a provision for reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs in this Bill as per the rules of the Government.

As I am coming from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, I would also request the Government of India that if this University Innovation Bill is passed, then one such University should be installed in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Thank you.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): Sir, I associate myself with him on this issue.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVAN (CHENNAI NORTH): Sir, I also associate myself on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, your names would be associated.